

Pres. McCarthy, Eugene
CIA 8

CIA 2-05.2

SENATOR MCCARTHY'S RESOLUTION ON THE CIA

Mr. HARTKE. Mr. President, on Monday Senator McCarthy offered a Senate resolution (S. Res. 210) providing for "a full and complete study with respect to the effects of the operations and activities of the Central Intelligence Agency upon the foreign relations of the United States." Under the resolution, this task would be undertaken by the Foreign Relations Committee or an authorized subcommittee, and report would be made by January 31, 1966.

On Sunday the Washington Post presented an editorial commenting on the McCarthy proposal and his intention to offer the resolution. The editorial lifts up and comments on the point that the CIA has attained very great importance "as a factor in the formulation and execution of foreign policy."

As the editorial notes, the question whose study is called for does not deal with the more controversial question of whether or not the CIA should be involved in formulating or carrying out foreign policy, but with "the effects of its operations" on our foreign relations.

This is a proper sphere for concern of the Foreign Relations Committee. The area marked out by the resolution is not in conflict with that which is presently under jurisdiction of Armed Services and Appropriations Subcommittees. This, too, the Washington Post editorial points out.

I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that the item to which I have referred may appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington (D.C.) Post, Jan. 23, 1966]

CONGRESS AND CIA

Senator EUGENE MCCARTHY has announced that he intends to seek Senate authorization for an investigation of the impact of the CIA on U.S. foreign policy. The mechanism for this would be a new subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the CIA or—should the Senate prefer—a broader select committee. This is not the first attempt to bring the CIA under congressional surveillance. At the time of his death, the late Brian McMahon had indicated his intention to work for a Joint Congressional Committee on Central Intelligence as a followup to his successful fight to establish the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. Majority Leader MANSFIELD and his 34 co-sponsors envisaged just such a joint committee in their ill-fated 1956 resolution; and Senator MCCARTHY himself has kept the issue alive since. But the present move is unprecedented in its sharp focus on the importance of the CIA as a factor in the formulation and execution of foreign policy.

There can be little doubt that the institutionalized growth of the intelligence arm of our Government during the cold war years has impinged to a very great extent on what has traditionally been the exclusive sphere of the State Department. The CIA's experts in Saigon or Santo Domingo assess many of the same matters that preoccupy embassy political officers, and its operatives necessarily stir up dark waters that a diplomat might prefer to leave undisturbed. While on paper the CIA answers to the Ambassador in a foreign capital, in case after case the tail has wagged the dog. President Kennedy's Executive order of May 1961, reaffirming the authority of the Ambassador, has had relatively little practical meaning.

Senator MCCARTHY does not enter directly into the controversy over whether or not the new power of the CIA is a desirable and indeed unavoidable response to a new kind of global political contest. His concern appears to be primarily that this power be made subject to congressional restraints—and that the committees of Congress dealing with foreign policy have a central place in overseeing the CIA.

The establishment of the proposed subcommittee would be a desirable first step indicating a recognition by Congress that the Foreign Relations Committee has a proper interest in the affairs of the CIA. Both the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees have long had subcommittees on the CIA, and these bodies now hold informal joint meetings with CIA officials at irregular intervals in which the Foreign Relations Committee should be given a voice. Beyond this, the work of the new subcommittee in examining the record of the CIA could be a valuable guide for future congressional action, though it should be self-evident that this examination would have to be conducted under ground rules not normally acceptable to Congress.